

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **WALKER VALLEY AND PHOENICIA FIRE DISTRICTS AWARDED FEMA GRANTS**

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a \$32,101 grant to Walker Valley Fire Chemical Engine Company #1 and a \$9,899 grant to the Phoenicia Fire District under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grants were among 655 awarded nationwide in the sixth round of grants for fiscal year 2002.

"I'm glad this program is paying off for fire companies in my district," said Hinchey. "We've put a lot of time and effort into funding the grant program and then making sure our companies are able to put together the best possible application. The grants announced today will help firefighters in Phoenicia and Walker Valley to better meet the challenges they face and to maximize their safety."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was created by the 106th Congress and authorized for \$400 million over two years. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has strongly supported providing full funding for the program. Earlier this year, Hinchey sponsored a number of workshops across the 26th Congressional District to help fire departments with the grant application process.

Fire companies had the opportunity to apply for assistance in any of four categories: fire operations and fire safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. Both Walker Valley and Phoenicia applied under the fire operations and firefighter safety category. The FEMA grants represent 90 percent of the full cost of the companies' proposals.

After six rounds of Assistance to Firefighters Grants for fiscal year 2002, fire companies in New York's 26th Congressional District have been awarded \$222,350.